

Indoor Air Quality
Tools for Schools

**Building a Multi-District/Statewide
Strategy:**

**The
CT School Indoor Environment
Resource Team Experience**





Agenda:

- 1. Background**
- 2. Organizing a Comprehensive, Collaborative Approach**
- 3. School District Outreach & Recruitment**
- 4. Training Program**
- 5. Evaluation & Follow-Up**
- 6. Summary: Lessons Learned**



Background



- **School IAQ in CT**
- **Why CSIERT?**
- **Accomplishments**



How CT Got Involved



- **Large # of IAQ Phone Inquiries**
- **Serious School IAQ Incidences**
- **CT CASE Report**
- **EPA's Tools For Schools -
Useful, Practical Intervention**



Barriers



- **Lack of IAQ Knowledge, Experience**
- **Inadequate Agency Resources**
- **Need to Assist Schools Re: TfS**





Needed: **A Comprehensive,** **Collaborative** **Approach**



Rationale



- **Schools Have Competing Issues**
- **Schools Need Assistance To Implement TfS**
- **TfS Should be Implemented on District Level**
- **More Partners Means More Successful Outreach** (Teachers Unions, Facilities Associations, ALA, Etc)
- **Multi-tiered Response To School IAQ**



Connecticut School Indoor Environment Resource Team



- CTCOSH
- CT Dept of Envir. Protection
- CT Dept of Education
- CT OSHA
- CT Dept of Public Health
- CT Education Association
- American Lung Assn of CT
- CT Assn of Local Health Drs.
- CT Assn of School Nurses
- CT Interlocal Risk Mgt Assn
- AFT - Connecticut
- UConn Health Center
- U.S. EPA Region I
- Yale Occup/Envir. Medicine Program
- US Dept of Education, Civil Rights Office, Boston
- CT Assn of Boards of Education
- CT School Building & Grounds Assn
- Southeast CT Indoor Air Coalition
- CT Assn of School Administrators
- CT PTA

Accomplishments



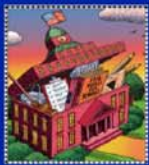
- **Established a Core Team of Expertise From 20 Agencies**
- **Trained TFS Teams in**
 - **Over 270 Schools**
 - **48 school districts**
 - **almost 1400 staff, parents trained**
- **Conducted over 40 Workshops, Conference Presentations**
- **Sponsored 2 Successful Statewide Conferences**



CT Schools With TsF



Connecticut Towns With EPA's Tools For Schools Indoor Air Quality Program as of October 9, 2003



Connecticut School Indoor Environment Resource Team Member Organizations

American Lung Association of Connecticut
 CT Council for Occupational Safety & Health
 CT Association of Boards of Education
 CT Association of Local Health Directors
 CT School Building & Grounds Association
 CT Department of Environmental Protection
 CT Department of Education
 CT Department of Labor, Division of Occupational Safety and Health
 CT Department of Public Health
 CT Education Association
 AFT-CT
 CT Federation of School Administrators, AFL-CIO
 CT Interlocal Risk Management Association
 CT Parent Teacher Association
 CT School Nurses Association
 Southeast CT Indoor Air Coalition
 UConn Health Center
 Division of Occupational & Environmental Medicine Program
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I
 U.S. Dept of Education, Office for Civil Rights
 Yale Occupational & Environmental Medicine Program



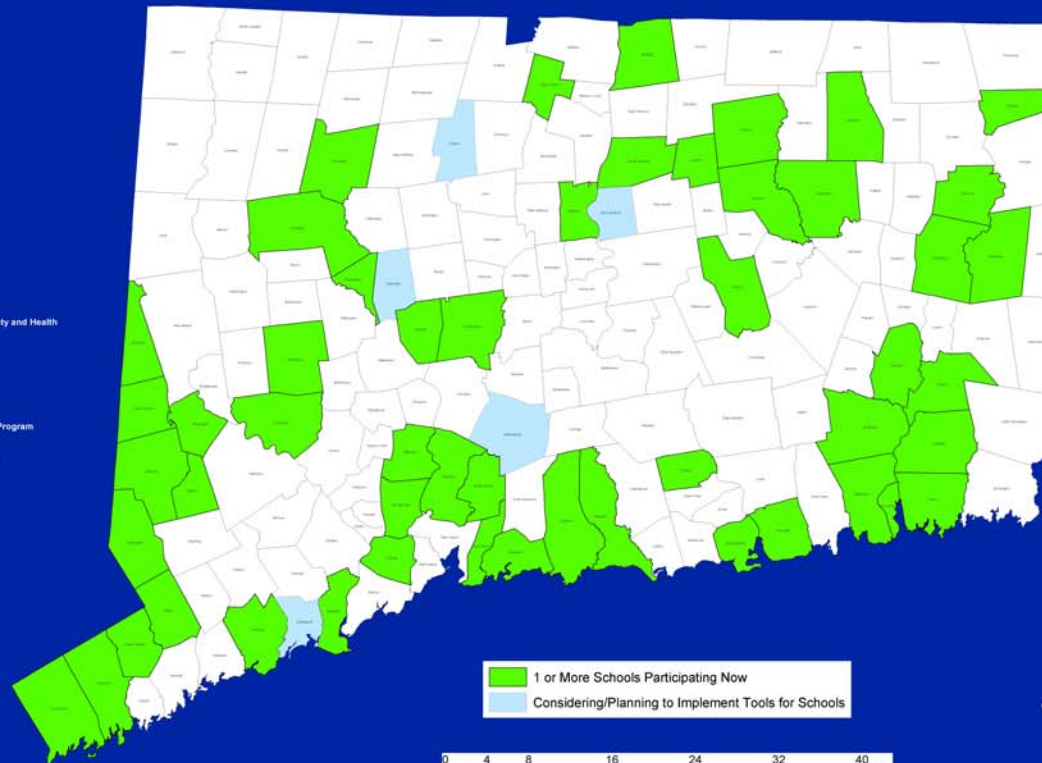
Funded in part by funds from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ATSDR.

For additional information, contact the Resource Team.

Dorville Wilson
 CT Council on Occupational Safety & Health
 (860) 953-2674 dorville.wilson@atnet.net

Kerry Folsom
 CT Department of Public Health
 (860) 505-7742 kerry.folsom@doh.state.ct.us

Angie Teets
 American Lung Association of Connecticut
 (860) 265-5621 atees@alacat.org



Resource Team Accomplishments (2)



- **Developed A “Train-the-Trainer Program**
 - **Produced Training Manual, Workshop Module**
 - **Conducted 2 Day-long Workshops**
- **Impact/Outcome Evaluation Survey**
- **Helped Make School IAQ High Priority Public Health Issue**





School District **Outreach** **& Recruitment**



TfS Implementation Scheme



“Buy-in” Presentation



- **Mandatory Presentation to School District Executive Staff**
- **Local Health Dept Present**
- **Self-Interest Based Pitch:**
 - **Health — Absenteeism & Asthma**
 - **Planning Mechanism –Control over Problem**
 - **Importance of Communication Component**
- **Implementation Logistics**





CSIERT Training

Program



Training Program



2 Part Training:

1st Module:

- IAQ Health issues
- Basics of School IAQ issues
- Review of TFS Action Packets/Program
- Importance of Effective Communication

2nd Module :

- Walkthrough Training
- Use Industrial Hygienists with Training Background



Training Program Objectives (1)



Introduction/Health:

- ✓ **Overview of School IAQ**
- ✓ **Understand Basic IAQ Health Issues**
- ✓ **Identify Potential IAQ-Related Symptoms**
- ✓ **Link Symptoms to Potential Sources**



Training Program Objectives (2)



Implementing TfS:

- ✓ **Contents of TfS Kit**
- ✓ **Role of Coordinator**
- ✓ **TfS Implementation Steps**
- ✓ **Familiarity With Checklists**
- ✓ **Importance of Communication Plan**
- ✓ **Develop Group Plan to Activate TfS**







First Training Workshop Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Overview of Training

Why School IAQ Is Important

Video: Taking Action

3. Indoor Air Quality Health Issue

Exercise

IAQ Health Overview

Short Break

4. Overview of Tools for Schools Kit: What's in the Box?

- Role of the Coordinator
- Implementation Summary
- Using the Checklists
- Importance of Communication Plan
- Developing a Group Plan

5. Next Steps?





Walkthrough Investigation Training

- ◆ **About 2 Months After 1st Training**
- ◆ **Facilitated by Industrial Hygienist**
- ◆ **2 hour training at a School**
- ◆ **Overview of Sources, Ventilation Basics**
- ◆ **Exercises Re: Problem ID**
- ◆ **Follow Up By Local Health Dept**



“Train the Trainer” Program



✓ **All Day Workshop Utilizing Lecture, Exercises, Handbook**

✓ **Purposes:**

- **To Train Trainers for 1st Session Workshop**
- **Urban District Strategy**

✓ **Large Effort Underway in Hartford**





Evaluation & Follow-Up



Evaluation Survey: Impact/Outcome



Objectives:

- **Document IAQ Problems Encountered**
- **Track IAQ Improvements Implemented**
- **Attempt to Document Health Impacts**



Evaluation Survey: Impact/Outcome



Types of Questions:

- **Demographic Information**
- **Checklist of IAQ Problems**
- **New Policies Implemented**
- **Barriers Encountered**
- **Resources Needed**
- **Health Assessment Qs for Nurses**



2002 Evaluation Results



- **Surveyed 50 School TfS Coordinators**
- **25 Schools Responded**

<u>Selected IAQ Problems</u>	<u>Identified?</u>	<u>Repaired/ scheduled repair</u>
Ventilation	60 %	49%
Carpet Removal Needed	80%	48%
General Cleanliness	64%	36%
Bus Idling Policy Lacking	60%	40%
Water Problems in General	56%	40%
Roof leaks	75%	56%

2003 Evaluation Results



- **Surveyed 170 School TfS Coordinators**
- **77 Schools Responded**

<u>Selected IAQ Problems</u>	<u>Identified?</u>	<u>Repaired/ scheduled repair</u>
Ventilation	81 %	75%
Carpet Removal Needed	70%	66%
General Cleanliness	69%	54%
Bus Idling Policy Lacking	38%	65%
Water Problems in General	93%	78%
Roof leaks	61%	73%

Follow-up Efforts



- **Emphasis on Local Health Department Involvement**
- **Mailings To TfS Coordinators, Superintendents**
- **Encourage District-Wide Coordination Group**
- **E-mail Communication System/Newsletter**





Summary:

Lessons Learned



What We Have Learned



- **Pool Your Resources - Big Job!**
- **Develop Effective Outreach Program**
- **Training Key to Successful Committees**
- **Focus on School Systems**
- **Need for Follow-up Plan**



Pitfalls to Avoid



- **Make sure School Administration is “Bought in”**
- **Plan Wisely: Avoid Logistical Problems**
- **Make sure Schools Ready Re: Training**
- **Identify Adequate # of Trainers**
- **Watch Out for Unscrupulous “Consultants”**



Resources on CD

(Steal It –It's Yours!)



- **1st Training PPt Presentation**
- **2nd Training PPt Presentation**
- **Implementation Guidelines Memo**
- **Train-the-Trainer Curriculum**
- **Useful Forms**

